

**Introduced by Senator Runner**February 18, 2016

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An act to amend Section 23301 of, and to add Section 23301.3 to, the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1259, as introduced, Runner. Vehicles: toll payment: veterans.

Under existing law, a vehicle that enters into or upon a vehicular crossing, as defined, is liable for tolls and other charges prescribed by the California Transportation Commission. Under existing law, it is unlawful to refuse to pay, or to evade or attempt to evade the payment of, tolls or other charges on any vehicular crossing, as defined, or toll highway. A violation of those provisions is subject to civil penalties. Existing law exempts authorized emergency vehicles, as defined, from payment of a toll and related fines under specified conditions.

This bill would exempt vehicles occupied by a veteran and displaying a specialized veterans license plate, as specified, from payment of a toll or related fines on a toll road, high-occupancy toll (HOT) lane, toll bridge, toll highway, a vehicular crossing, or any other toll facility. The bill would also make conforming changes.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 23301 of the Vehicle Code is amended
- 2 to read:
- 3 23301. Except as provided in ~~Section~~ *Sections 23301.3 and*
- 4 23301.5, each vehicle that enters into or upon a vehicular crossing

1 ~~immediately becomes~~ *is* liable for those tolls and other charges as  
2 ~~may from time to time be~~ prescribed by the California  
3 Transportation Commission.

4 SEC. 2. Section 23301.3 is added to the Vehicle Code, to read:

5 23301.3. (a) A vehicle described in subdivision (b) is exempt  
6 from a toll or other charge on a toll road, high-occupancy toll  
7 (HOT) lane, toll bridge, toll highway, a vehicular crossing, or any  
8 other toll facility.

9 (b) The exemption described in subdivision (a) applies only to  
10 a vehicle that is occupied by a veteran and displays one of the  
11 following license plates:

12 (1) A license plate issued to a disabled veteran, pursuant to  
13 Section 5007.

14 (2) A license plate issued to a Pearl Harbor survivor, pursuant  
15 to Section 5101.3.

16 (3) A license plate issued to a recipient of the Army Medal of  
17 Honor, Navy Medal of Honor, Air Force Medal of Honor, Army  
18 Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Air Force Cross,  
19 pursuant to Section 5101.4.

20 (4) A license plate issued to a former American prisoner of war,  
21 pursuant to Section 5101.5.

22 (5) A license plate issued to a recipient of the Congressional  
23 Medal of Honor, pursuant to Section 5101.6.

24 (6) A license plate issued to a recipient of the Purple Heart,  
25 pursuant to Section 5101.8.

26 (c) Sections 23302 and 23302.5 do not apply to vehicles exempt  
27 pursuant to this section.